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ENERGETIC

SIGNS WITH NEW SLOGAN GOING UP AROUND CITY LIMITS

metroNEWS

JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

U of C invests in more professors

EDUCATION

Student union head says new hires will help with class sizes



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

In a larger-than-life investment to invigorate its campus, the University of Calgary has decided to drop \$26 million over the next five years to hire 100 tenure-track professors.

In the next two years, the school will bring in new faces to classrooms with money they've found from belt-tightening budgets and unexpected revenue injections from the province.

Although president Elizabeth Cannon told reporters the investment isn't all "net new," it will go a long way to helping them achieve their "Eyes High" goal to become one of Canada's top five re-

search universities.

"We're in pretty good shape over the next few years and certainly we have been very financially prudent at the University of Calgary," said Cannon.

"We've put some money away to be able to have strategic investments," she said. "And that's why today we were able to announce the hiring of 100 new faculty."

Levi Nilson, the University of Calgary Students' Union president, said that from what they understand, the majority of new faculty members will be attrition replacements. The net number of new positions will amount to about 25, Nilson said.

"It's a good start; it will definitely in the short time help with class sizes, for sure," said Nilson. "It will help students have a little more access to their professors."

Cannon said the school must have discussions with the provincial government on infrastructure needs before more student spaces can be opened up.

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Syrian refugee sponsor faces hateful backlash

metr The Syrian Crisis

Local support

Phone calls, texts critical of request for extra aid



Lucie Edwardson
Metro | Calgary

Sam Nammoura said he only wanted to do the right thing, and he is feeling a bit disheartened after being on the receiving end of some harsh comments.

Metro first introduced Nammoura as one of the sponsors of a struggling Syrian refugee family who had recently experienced an outpouring of community support, thanks to the work of Calgarians Nammoura and Saima Jamal.

When Metro reported that the family still needed help in many ways, despite the outpouring of local support, Nammoura's phone number was attached so willing Calgarians could get in touch and find out how they could help.

After the initial "overwhelmingly positive responses," Nam-

moura said things took a dark turn, and he started to receive angry, and sometimes hateful messages about the work he was doing, the people he was helping and the refugee crisis in general.

"They were trying to make me feel like I didn't appreciate my country or the help the government has given the refugees," said Nammoura. "We do appreciate it. The families appreciate it. But, even though so much has been done, it doesn't mean we can be selfish and drop them."

One text message Nammoura received stated: "We have Canadians in the city who're struggling to feed their kids and then we have

"We need compassion for everyone."
Sam Nammoura

this family who has contributed nothing to this country and they're complaining Canadian taxpayers are not doing enough or giving them enough. I'm sure there are lots of refugees who would love to trade places with them."

In a phone call, Nammoura said another individual accused him of "using a Canadian paper to get f---ing Arabs and Muslims help."

Although he understands how asking for further assistance might have been mis-



Sam Nammoura believes the concerns facing Syrian families are not just refugee issues, but fundamental human issues. JENNIFER FRIESEN/FOR METRO

understood as purely monetary, Nammoura said the kind of help refugees need extends beyond monetary support and donations.

Leena Mahmoodi, coordinator at Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, echoed Nammoura's sentiment and said refugees require "moral and

interpretive support."

"It's not just the financial assistance that is required, however that is absolutely important," she said. "We need volunteers, we need people to help out with escorting people to medical appointments, helping them get connected to libraries, leisure centres, and

provide them moral support, these are the things that they need."

Nammoura said it all comes down to one word: "compassion."

"We need compassion for everyone, these are human issues, not refugee issues," he said.

COURTS

Accused must undergo psych test

The man accused of killing a two-year-old southwestern Alberta girl and her father earlier this month has been ordered to undergo a 30-day psychiatric assessment.

Derek Saretzky made a brief appearance Wednesday via video link in a Lethbridge courtroom. The 22-year-old, clad in a blue jumpsuit, had a solemn demeanour, with his eyes down-cast much of the time.

Saretzky is back behind bars after being taken to hospital last week. Media outlets have quoted sources as saying he tried to commit suicide by hanging himself.

There are two reasons for the psychiatric assessment, said Edgerton.

"First is to determine whether or not the accused is fit to stand trial. In a basic sense, that means whether or not he understands what's going on, understands the court process," he said.

"The second is to see what his mental state was at the time of the offence, what was going on his head."

The assessment will be done at the Southern Alberta Forensic Psychiatric Centre in Calgary.

The case is due back in court in Lethbridge on Oct. 29.

Saretzky is charged with first-degree murder in the deaths of Hailey Dunbar-Blanchette and her father, Terry Blanchette, as well as with a separate charge of committing an indignity to the little girl's body.

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Visit calgary.ca/tribunals for information on how to apply.

Deadline for receipt of applications is
4:30 p.m. Friday, October 9, 2015.

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2015-2324



Mayor Naheed Nenshi and other officials celebrated the completion of the LRT encapsulation — which laid the foundation for the downtown library — by donning Lego hats. AARON CHATHA/METRO

Central Library enters next phase

DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable vertical construction now underway



Aaron Chatha
Metro | Calgary

Construction of Calgary's new Central Library has reached a milestone — the final panel of the LRT enclosure has been put into place.

The CTrain will cross through the new library building, located downtown in East Village, making it the first pro-

ject in Calgary's history built over an active LRT line. Officials said 99 per cent of the project was completed with the CTrain in full service.

The next phase, vertical construction of the library, is now underway.

"Just as the presence of the LRT tracks posed an engineering challenge to the project team, it pushed us to design a highly functional, highly engaging library that dramatically fulfils the need to be all about the people who use it," said Rob Adamson, one of the lead architects.

Developers are hoping the project will become a city landmark. It will house more than

600,000 books in its physical collection. It will also provide more programs and spaces.

"In January of this year, when we launched the library's new look and feel, the board promised Calgarians that we would make Calgary Public Library the best public library in the world," said Janet Hutchinson, chairwoman of the library board.

Designers said they would be pursuing a LEED-NC gold rating through the Canadian Green Building Council, standing out as a model of sustainability in design and construction.

The project is scheduled to open in 2018.

\$245M

Cost of the project.

DOVER

Police probe discovery of man's body in southeast



Lucie Edmondson
Metro | Calgary

Calgary police are investigating a scene in the southeast community of Dover after a body was discovered early Wednesday.

Police were called around 6 a.m. to check on the welfare of a man in the 2600 block of 43 Street SE. When police arrived the man was dead, according to Staff Sgt. Ryan Jepson.

The investigation is now centred around a body that was covered by a blanket behind

a white pickup truck, before being moved by police just before 11 a.m. Wednesday.

Tanya Littleshields lives across the street and said police had already taped off the streets when she woke up at 7 a.m. Wednesday.

Littleshields said a neighbour told her he had located a body behind his truck.

Having only lived in the neighbourhood for one month, she says she found it a "little scary and overwhelming."

Harry Horton, a three-year resident, said if it's confirmed to be violent, he wouldn't be surprised.



Police had taped off streets Wednesday.

LUCIE EDMONDSON/METRO

"It's Forest Lawn, Dover, you get used to it," he said.

Anyone with information on the death is asked to call police at 403-266-1234.

IN BRIEF

Suspicious death now under investigation

Calgary Police were called to the Highland Park on Wednesday morning to investigate the death of a man.

Around 9 a.m., police were called to the 4200 block of Centre Street NW.

"We received a call from a passerby who noticed the man and notified police," said Staff Sgt. Ryan Jepson.

He said an injured man was found exiting a home and was taken to hospital in life-threatening condition.

The man died from his injuries a short time later, said Jepson.

Police say the investigation is ongoing and the scene is being held secure.

Jepson said police have spoken to three witnesses in the case, one who was inside the home, and two from the general area.

Anyone who may have been in the area at the time is asked to contact police at (403) 266-1234.

METRO

Fatal Vulcan house fire deemed arson: RCMP

Vulcan RCMP say Monday's fatal house fire where two bodies were found was deliberately set.

Vulcan fire crews and RCMP responded to a house fire in the early hours of Monday morning.

Once they were able to conduct an inspection of the home, the remains of two people were found.

The victims have been identified, following an autopsy, as Robert Farrow, 47, and Karen Currie, 56, of Vulcan, Alberta.

Currie was a lawyer in the southeast Alberta town of around 2,000 people. She had opened the practice at the start of 2015.

Neighbours said Robert Farrow was a man who did odd jobs around the town and had the nickname "Rock Pile Rob."

Fire investigators believe the person responsible for the arson died in the fire, though they say the motive remains unclear.

RCMP aren't looking for any other suspects in this matter at this time.

METRO

NDP

Deal to rebuild golf course will go ahead

The Alberta government says it's reluctantly following through on a deal made last year by the Tories to rebuild a golf course west of Calgary at a cost to taxpayers of millions of dollars.

The Kananaskis Country Golf Course, which calls itself one of the premier golf destinations in the Canadian Rockies, was severely damaged by flooding that ravaged the region in 2013.

An independent review

by Deloitte LLP of the sole-sourced agreement with the Crown-owned course's operator, Kan-Alta Golf Management Ltd., says the net cost to taxpayers could be up to \$8.8 million for the rebuild.

The report says breaking the deal, which also covers the operator's lost profits and extends the operating agreement until 2026, could saddle taxpayers with \$16.9 million in higher legal and other costs.

The government estimates that bill could swell to up to \$30 million.

Environment and Parks Minister Shannon Phillips said the NDP government doesn't want to be in the golf course business, but proceeding with the rebuild is the best approach.

"Albertans could have had liabilities in the tens of millions of dollars if we had recklessly proceeded with a decision to break the deal with the current operator," Phillips said Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Albertans could have had liabilities in the tens of millions of dollars if we had recklessly proceeded with a decision to break the deal with the current operator.

Environment and Parks Minister Shannon Phillips

ECONOMY NEWS

Minimum wage to rise on Thursday in Saskatchewan, Alberta and Manitoba

Minimum wage earners in all three Prairie provinces are getting a pay hike.

Starting Thursday in Alberta the government is raising the minimum wage employers must pay their workers. The new minimum wage in Alberta will be \$11.20 per hour, up from \$10.20, while the liquor server wage goes to \$10.70 per hour from \$9.20.

The NDP government says it's a first step toward a \$15 minimum wage by

2018. Alberta Wildrose jobs critic Grant Hunter criticized the wage hike, saying it will hurt business owners at a time when the economy is not doing well.

"Wildrose has repeatedly asked the government to consider who they are really going to affect with this hike. We are concerned about those it is intended to help the most: Alberta's youth, non-profits and our province's most vulnerable," Hunter said in a news release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Uber has called out the city after a committee meeting Wednesday where councillors approved new regulations for the city's limousine industry. METRO FILE PHOTO

UberBLACK could be left in the dark

COUNCIL

Ride-share company and city butt heads over limo laws



Helen Pike
Metro | Calgary

Uber is calling out the City of Calgary's decision against cutting minimum limousine pricing, calling the move "protectionist."

Wednesday during a committee meeting councillors approved three new regulations.

If passed by council in October these new rules will waive the mandatory 30-minute booking period for limos, drop the prices for limos down over 50 per cent

and change the types of vehicles limo companies can use.

The rule relaxations made by the city were designed, in part, to appease Uber, the ride-share company looking to introduce their own limo service in Calgary. Uber was vying for an elimination of the \$84.60 fare minimum, which administration has opted to knock down to \$25.

Uber told Metro that Calgaryans, according to third-party city data, were 74 per cent in favour of eliminating the fee.

"The protectionist recommendations headed to City Council do not put Calgaryans first and will not allow technology companies like Uber to bring premium services, including UberBLACK to Calgary," wrote Ramit Kar, Uber's general manager for Alberta, in an email statement.

"It's a game-changer," said

Coun. Evan Woolley. "It's critical that we as a whole city are able to adapt to the changing way our transportation systems are working, and we've done a wonderful job at that with car2go."

"What we did today is we've tried to slowly open the door for the changes to occur."

Woolley said the ride-share company needs to come to the table and be a part of the discussion, and he was disappointed they didn't come to the committee meeting, but noted they have been making efforts to put forward a more public face in the city. During the meeting several cab drivers, retired and current, aired their concerns over drastic changes during an economic downturn.

"Frankly the proposed amendments scare me as a taxi driver," said Robert MacGregor. "While

they bear a lot of merit, the unfortunate thing is with the economy since November of last year this is horrible timing to go making these changes right now."

For drivers and brokerages, a cheaper and more easily accessible limousine service could mean more taxi drivers converting to limousine driving.

Roger Richard, Allied Limousine and Associated Cab president, advocated for the changes. Last year his company introduced an Allied Black app that allows users to book cab or limousine rides legally.

"What we have today is a matter of making this system, this service, more fair to the consumer within the city itself," Richard said. "This is making the service for the consumer a little more competitive, a little more fair."

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SLOGAN

'Energetic' new signs going up at city limits

Brodie Thomas
For Metro | Calgary

Calgary is no longer the heart of the new west, at least according to the 10 signs at the city limits.

Instead, visitors driving into the city will be invited to "Be part of the energy."

The first two signs went up yesterday on the Airport Trail

in the north, and on Macleod Trail as you enter the city via Highway 2A in the south.

Sean Somers, spokesman with City of Calgary transportation, said the old signs were nearing the end of their life and showing their age due to weather and vandalism.

The total cost for manufacturing and replacing 10 signs will come in at \$30,000. Somers noted it's a reasonable price when compared with



what some cities spend on rebranding.

"Edmonton was looking at doing a refresh and they were talking millions," he

said. "We've reused materials that are there," he said. "We just swapped out the signs themselves."

Even the slogan itself is reused. "Be part of the energy" has been Calgary Economic Development's slogan for several years when promoting the city to the world.

While two signs went up Wednesday, the remaining eight will be put up before the end of the year.

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OCT THU1 FRI2 SAT3 SUN4



The once popular, mint-flavoured cigarette format will be removed from store shelves Thursday. KEVIN TUONG/FOR METRO

Smokingly indifferent

HEALTH

City smokers pass, rather than puff, on menthol ban

Tim Querengesser
Metro | Edmonton

The menthol cigarette, long the poison of choice for people seeking cigarettes flavoured like a breath mint, will come off store shelves for good on Thursday.

But pandemonium, widely anticipated, has not ensued.

Indeed, on its last day as a minty, legal vice sold at corner marts Wednesday, the menthol cigarette was playing it coy, with just one woman discovered smoking it outside her office.

"Right now, I've bought two extra packs," said Nadia Savorn, who like most smokers spoken to Wednesday, didn't start smoking menthols.

"I started with ultra light," she said, grinning.

Savorn said if she wants more of her favourite Benson & Hedges menthols, she doesn't antici-

pate trouble after tomorrow.

"I can order them online from Saskatchewan," she said. "It's cheaper."

And, Savorn said, she expects the same of most who smoke menthols.

"I don't think the ban will have any impact. If you want to ban smoking, ban the whole thing — not just a flavour. It doesn't make sense."

The Alberta government banned menthol-flavoured tobacco, having already banned most other flavoured tobacco products. It says approximately one-third of youth smokers choose menthol tobacco.

It also estimates 3,000 people die from tobacco-related illnesses each year.

But most smokers spoken to on Edmonton's streets Wednesday were in agreement with Savorn.

Don Crippen, 38, who started smoking 20 years ago, doesn't buy the gateway-cigarette theory.

"I equate them with old people," he said, of menthol cigarettes. "I don't think (the ban) will do anything, because they'll just look for another outlet. Menthol cigarettes, I don't know many people that smoke them, especially young people."

IN BRIEF

TransAlta offers to pay \$56 million settlement

TransAlta Corporation is offering to pay a \$56 million settlement after Alberta's regulator found it deliberately timed outages at power plants at peak times to drive up electricity prices.

TransAlta (TSX:TA) said

the proposal includes the repayment of money it made by the activity, legal costs and an administrative penalty.

The offer is subject to approval by the Alberta Utilities Commission and is to be reviewed at a hearing later this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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READY TO ENGAGE

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VOTER PROFILE

Name: Bailey Reid **Age:** 30 **Riding:** Ottawa Vanier
Her issues: Violence against women, women in leadership roles

Wanted: Focus on women's issues



ROSEMARY WESTWOOD
in Ottawa

One thing dominates Bailey Reid's politics: The inequality of the sexes.

"You can talk about representation in Parliament, you can talk about child care, you can talk about violence against women, but I think that it does need that deeper analysis to show these are all results of women not being equal in Canada," she says.

Reid called Stephen Harper "the most absent" from the discussion. Neither he nor his status of women minister participated in the recent leader event devoted to women's issues — which touched on child care, violence against women, and women in leadership roles.

While NDP's Thomas Mulcair and Liberal's Justin Trudeau participated, Reid found those leader's analyses missed that point. No leader has been identifying inequality as the root

cause, nor underlining the ludicrousness of segregating key issues for half the voting public under the ill-fitting "women's issues" banner — with the exception of Elizabeth May.

"Part of me wants to vote Green because I'm sick of (Elizabeth May) being ignored," Reid says. The Green leader was barred from the debates on the economy and on foreign policy, and Reid seems incredulous that a feminist reading of economic policy was missing from the other leaders' comments.

"It would be nice to see a woman taken seriously, and it does feel very, pat pat on the head, 'That's cute Miss May, but you can't come.'"

But Reid won't be voting Green, because her local candidate doesn't have good odds.

The 30-year-old's riding, Ottawa Vanier, is staunchly Liberal, and likely to remain so. Reid says her natural political home has been the Liberal Party, so she's likely

voting that way again on Oct. 19. But she admits to some waffling. She likes the NDP's strategies on violence against women and national child-care plans.

Justin Trudeau's opaque comments that misogyny is fuelled by "certain kinds of music" and absent fathers certainly didn't impress Reid. "I wish he had a really good gender adviser," she quips. But the Liberals' promise to bring gender equity to cabinet is promising, she says, and so too the promise of a missing and murdered indigenous women inquiry. Trudeau is clearly willing to talk about inequality and sexism, she adds.

And that's the least that Reid is hoping for in this election: A prime minister willing to start talking more about women.

Rosemary Westwood is travelling across the country talking to young voters. She'll be in Toronto on Thursday.

'Fastest-growing industry' ignored

Tech industry is accusing leaders of poor planning



Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Federal leaders must show concrete plans on how technology will feature into their vision of the country, a local tech company has said.

Just days after founders of Lighthouse Labs wrote to Stephen Harper, Justin Trudeau and Thomas Mulcair expressing the tech community's disappointment over the lack of discussion on how to boost the country's economy through technology, Liberals responded swiftly.

Justin Trudeau announced Tuesday in Winnipeg a \$900-million commitment to advance tech innovations and startup incubators.

"That's what we've been looking for from every leader," said Jeremy Shaki, co-founder of the web and mobile software development company. He described Trudeau's move as "phenomenal" but was quick to add sustainability is key.

"I'm not just asking for them to throw money everywhere, but specifically where does tech fit into their plans?" he said.

In the letter, the group had accused leaders of completely ignoring the technology industry in their discussions, and only fo-



Company critical of commitment to transform the education sector by incorporating technology in the system. GETTY IMAGES

cusing on short-term things "just to help them win certain votes, overlooking the fastest growing industry in North America."

Shaki remained critical of the leaders' commitment to transform the country's education sector by incorporating technology in the system.

"It's a shame. How are we voting on people when we have absolutely no idea how they'll be approaching these critical issues?" he said.

Groups in the tech industry have done "a phenomenal job" without much support from the government, and it's time leaders commit to promoting technological innovations, he said.

Lighthouse Labs believes most of tomorrow's job markets will require basic levels of web design

and coding. The company has taken its trainings throughout the country, helping a total of its 300 graduates to land jobs with tech companies. Its HTML500 summer series have helped over 2,500 young Canadians learn basic skills in coding for free.

"Coding as a tool is so much like math," said Shaki, adding Canada should emulate nations like the U.K. and introduce coding classes in elementary and high schools, making it a mandatory subject.

"Even if you don't become a developer, knowing to code will help you find creative, logical and critical solutions."

There needs to be a top-down approach, or at least a conversation from the top about how to grow this industry, he said.



The technology industry has been completely ignored through all debates.

Jeremy Shaki

BY THE NUMBERS

Technology in Education

How other countries around the globe are schooling Canada on the future

</> England's new curriculum teaches the basics of coding as early as **5 years old**

</> Estonia is teaching **first graders** how to create their own computer games



The American "Hour of Code" effort says it has already persuaded **28 MILLION** people to give programming a try.

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Dealer trade may be required. * Offer available to qualified retail customers in Canada for vehicles delivered between October 1 and November 2, 2015. 0% purchase financing offered on approved credit by TD Auto Finance Services, Scotiabank® or RBC Royal Bank for 84 months on all new or demonstrator 2015 Spark LS 1SA, Sonic LS 1SA Sedan, Volt, Cruze LS 1SA, Malibu 3LT, Impala 1LT, Camaro 1LS & 2LS, Trax LS 1SA Manual, Equinox LS AWD, Traverse LS FWD, Colorado 2WD, Silverado 1500 Double/Crew Cab 2WD WT and Silverado HD 2WD WT with gas engine. Participating lenders are subject to change. Rates from other lenders will vary. Down payment, trade and/or security deposit may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: \$40,000 at 0% APR, the monthly payment is \$476.19 for 84 months. Cost of borrowing is \$0, total obligation is \$40,000. Offer is unconditionally interest-free. 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IN BRIEF**Former Quebec lieutenant-governor sentenced to 18 months**

Calling her behaviour "highly reprehensible" and part of a "culture of deceit," a judge sentenced former Quebec lieutenant-governor Lise Thibault to 18 months in prison on Wednesday.

The sentence was handed down six years after Thibault, now 76, was charged with fraud and breach of trust.

Thibault was charged two

years after a 2007 report by the federal and provincial auditors general revealed she claimed more than \$700,000 in improper expenses when she held the vice-regal post between 1997 and 2007.

Her trial heard the money was spent on gifts, trips, parties, meals and skiing and golf lessons.

Thibault was ordered to reimburse \$200,000 to Ottawa and \$100,000 to Quebec.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

President of COC steps down amid allegations of sexual harassment

Marcel Aubut stepped down as president of the Canadian Olympic Committee and chairman of the Canadian Olympic Foundation on Wednesday for the duration of a sexual harassment investigation.

The COC received a complaint last Friday about Aubut and has retained Francois Roland, former Chief Justice of

the Quebec Superior Court, to head up an investigation.

"Mr. Marcel Aubut has learned of allegations concerning remarks he allegedly made to a colleague," said Aubut in a statement. "He has offered his unconditional support to those responsible for investigating the remarks attributed to him and setting the record straight. This is a normal process that should be completed by mid-October." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Federal finance minister and Conservative candidate Joe Oliver speaks during a news conference in Toronto on Wednesday.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tories stand by trade deal

CARETAKER CONVENTION

Pact ignores protocol that limits activities during election

The Conservatives are conducting negotiations toward a massive 12-country trade deal — that could well prove to be their campaign centrepiece — in secret in the middle of an election, the Liberals and NDP charged Wednesday.

As Justin Trudeau unveiled the Liberal health-care policy plank, one of the last remaining pieces of his party's platform, and NDP Leader Tom Mulcair promised to establish a parliamentary science officer to advise his would-be government, the Conservatives were answering awkward questions about the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which could be announced, in some form, as early as Friday.

Joe Oliver, in a rare national campaign appearance, defended the government's right to conduct official business during the election period.

The finance minister rejected suggestions that the government's continued pursuit of the TPP is a violation of the so-called

"caretaker convention," which is supposed to limit government activity during an election period.

"There is a protocol in place and we of course consult with the Privy Council on these issues," Oliver said.

The convention also stipulates that governing parties are expected to consult opposition parties on matters that could end up tying the hands of future governments.

Trudeau flat out said he had "not been approached by anyone in government on the Trans-Pacific Partnership."

"It would be unrealistic for us to expect that the whole world will stop and wait with bated breath for the outcome of Canada's election. But what we need to know is that our government is negotiating in a way that is going to enhance Canadian opportunities and growth while protecting our interests."

Mulcair said he is "very worried" about what Prime Minister Stephen Harper is willing to put on the table.

"I don't trust Stephen Harper as a negotiator," he said in Iqaluit. "He's not good at it. He has an ideological bent that means he doesn't care about what happens here at home."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



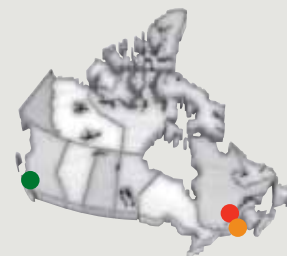
WHERE THE LEADERS ARE THURSDAY

• **Stephen Harper** has no public events.

• **Justin Trudeau** will be in Montreal.

• **Tom Mulcair** will be in Montreal.

• **Elizabeth May** will be in Victoria, B.C.



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Rivals argue Harper's words are intended to divide citizens

Michael Woods
Metro | Ottawa

Prime Minister Stephen Harper is fostering division when he suggests that elite opinion is "completely divorced" from what ordinary people think, opposition candidates said Wednesday.

In an interview with Metro on Tuesday, Harper was asked about his past comments on "elites."

"It's not that elite opinion doesn't matter," he said. "Expert opinion always counts. But you cannot govern well, and you cannot govern properly, unless you understand the values and realities of ordinary Canadians."

As an example, he cited the government's law that allows them to strip people convicted of terror offences of their Canadian citizenship if they have citizenship from another country.

He said the other parties' opposition to the law is "elite political correctness on steroids."

However, Ottawa's NDP and Liberal candidates said Harper is trying to divide Canadians.

"'Elite' is really anyone who disagrees with his ideological views," said Ottawa Centre Liberal candidate Catherine Mc-

Kenna. "It could be the courts, the media, human-rights organizations, often the legal community or senior bureaucrats in the public service," she said.

Paul Dewar, the NDP incumbent in Ottawa Centre, said the Conservatives are trying to use the citizenship revocation law as a wedge issue. He added that the Conservative government has often ignored or not sought the advice of public servants in creating certain laws.

"They have their own point of view, and it gets right into law.... The end result, often, is a court challenge, and the laws are thrown out," he said. "The public service, the Supreme Court, anyone who has any background knowledge in this case in law is considered an elite."



Stephen Harper greets supporters in Richmond Hill, Ont., on Tuesday. Metro asked the Tory leader Tuesday about his comments on expert advice. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

DEMOCRACY

Brothers build website to track MP voting history

Shay Neufeld was just looking for a way to track MPs' voting records in the House of Commons.

It seemed like something that should exist. Neufeld wanted to see how members of Parliament voted on Bill C-51, the government's anti-terror law.

He found openparliament.ca, a definitive resource. But with many different readings of each bill and no way to easily track a single MP's voting record, it wasn't what he needed.

"I was shocked as a democratic citizen that the government didn't make it easier for me to search through the votes that

"I couldn't believe it. I said, 'Do we really not have something for this?'"
Braden Neufeld

I wanted to look for," said the 27-year-old Vancouver native, a PhD candidate in neuroscience at Harvard University.

When he realized no such tool existed, he decided to create one. He enlisted his brother Braden, 23, a programmer and

website designer.

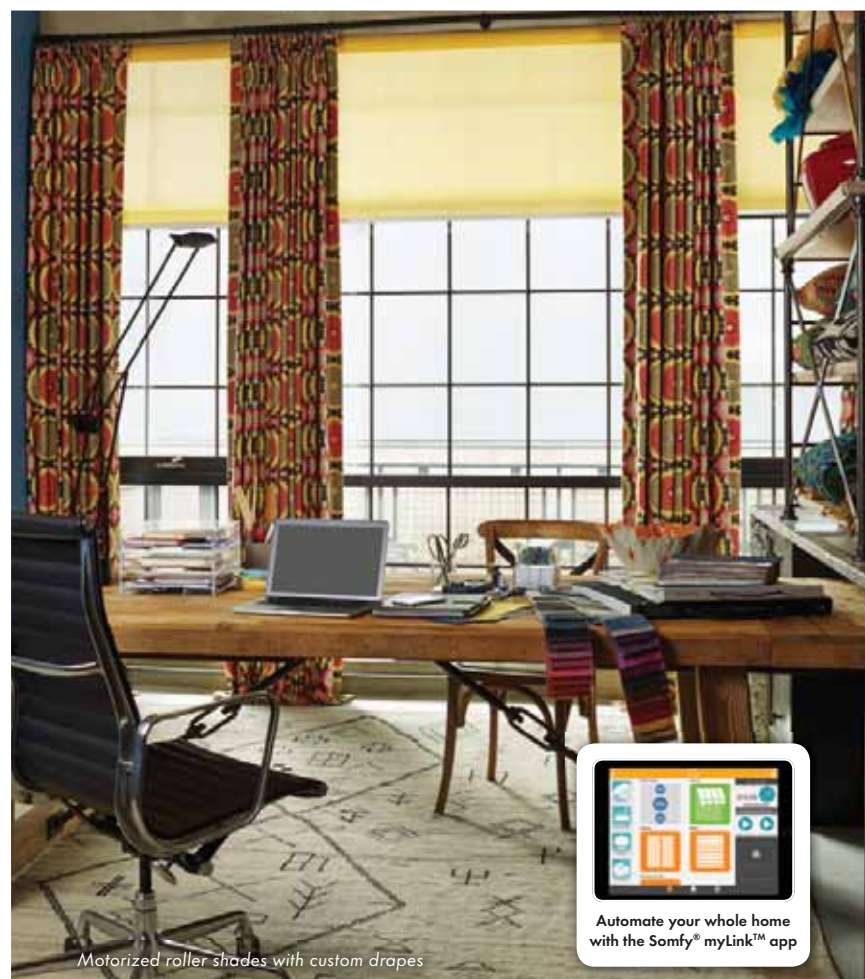
The result is votes.mp, a searchable website that displays MPs' voting records dating back to 2006. It's searchable by member, riding, postal code, bill number and name and allows users to look at a single politician's voting history in the House.

"We really just wanted to come down to a simple tool for people to use for a single purpose," Braden Neufeld said.

The website went live Sept. 19. The brothers said the site has been garnering a couple of thousand views a day.

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Pope tells Davis: 'Stay strong'

RELIGION

Secret meeting confirmed by Vatican baffles LGBT activists

Defiant Kentucky clerk Kim Davis met briefly with Pope Francis during his historic U.S. visit, an encounter she said validates her crusade against gay marriage.

"He held out his hand to her and she grasped his hand," her attorney, Mat Staver, told The Associated Press. "He asked her to pray for him and she said she would; she asked the pope to pray for her, and he said he would."

The Vatican essentially confirmed the meeting: The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, given the opportunity to deny it took place, declined to do so and said merely that he would have no comment. The Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, said the meeting was private and that no photos would be released.

Davis, an Apostolic Christian, became a protagonist in



Rowan County Clerk Kim Davis said meeting the Pope with her husband has inspired her to continue to fight for her religious beliefs. TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

America's divisive culture wars when she defied the federal courts by refusing to license same-sex marriages despite the landmark Supreme Court ruling that effectively legalized them nationwide. She spent five days in jail until her deputies agreed to issue licences without her approval.

Davis and her husband met with Francis alone for less than 15 minutes at the Vatican Em-

Pope Francis needs to state clearly where he stands in regard to the inclusion of LGBT people in the church and society.

Francis DeBernardo

bassy in Washington, Staver said. He would not say who initiated the meeting with the pope or how it came to be, citing a desire to be "deferential to the Vatican."

They chose to keep the meeting a secret while the pope was in the county, to avoid overshadowing his visit with the controversy that follows Davis, Staver said.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of

Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, also referred questions back to the Vatican.

"It was really very humbling to even think that he would want to meet me or know me," Davis told ABC News. "Just knowing that the pope is on track with what we're doing and agreeing, you know, it kind of validates everything."

For some, the pope's decision to meet with a figure as divisive as Davis sullied the legacy of his celebratory visit.

DignityUSA, an advocacy group for gay and lesbian Catholics, called their meeting "deeply disappointing" and said it could transform the public perception of the trip "from a largely successful pastoral visit to the endorsement of an exclusionary political agenda."

"That Pope Francis met privately in Washington, D.C. with Kim Davis throws a wet blanket on the good will that the pontiff had garnered during his U.S. visit last week," wrote Francis DeBernardo, the executive director of New Ways Ministry, another Catholic organization that advocates for gay rights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL INTERVENTION

Russia calls for unified combat

Russia followed its launch of airstrikes in Syria with a call on Wednesday for the world to unite in the fight against terrorist groups, and Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told foreign ministers of world powers that his country was circulating a draft UN Security Council resolution to help make it happen.

Secretary of State John Kerry responded by announcing that the United States is prepared to welcome Russia actions in Syria if they are directed at the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group and al-Qaida, and promising that the U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIL in Syria would "dramatically accelerate our efforts."

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem told the council that his country strongly endorses Russia's latest moves and called airstrikes in Syria that aren't coordinated with his government a "blatant contravention" of international law. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ARABIAN PENINSULA

U.S. Navy seizes suspicious ship

A ship carrying illicit arms believed to be from Iran was intercepted last week off the southern Arabian Peninsula by a member of a U.S.-backed naval coalition and was not registered with any country, the U.S. Navy said Wednesday.

The description of the ship's seizure conflicted in some in-

stances with an earlier account provided by a separate Saudi-led coalition battling Yemen's Shiite rebels, which claimed in a statement carried by the state-run Saudi Press Agency that it had foiled the smuggling attempt.

The Saudi coalition alleged that Iran was using the vessel

to ship arms to the rebels, charges denied by Tehran.

The U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, based in Bahrain, said a member of the Combined Maritime Forces, a long-standing multinational coalition, intercepted the vessel in international waters last Friday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GREECE

Relief agencies set up camp

Relief agencies have set up a tent city at Greece's border with Macedonia to cope with the growing number of migrants trying to reach central Europe ahead of winter — with some resorting to extreme measures to complete the journey.

The facilities that have been set up over the past week have

a capacity of 1,000 to serve one of the busiest bottlenecks in the country, near the Greek border town of Idomeni.

In the past 24 hours, some 4,500 people arrived at the Idomeni crossing, most of them by bus from Athens, Greek police said.

Syrian English literature stu-

dent Hussam Jaban, 21, told The Associated Press he swam to a Greek island from the Turkish coast to avoid paying smugglers and keep enough money for the mainland journey through Europe.

"There were 13 of us and we all made it," Jaban said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Uncovered monument may have been for Hephaestion

An opulent underground monument in northern Greece that caused a stir when excavated last year may have been a symbolic grave — but not the final rest-

ing place of — the closest friend and general of ancient warrior-king Alexander the Great, the excavator says.

Archeologist Katerina Peristeri said Wednesday she believes the vaulted structure "was a funerary monument

for Hephaestion."

The Macedonian nobleman grew up with Alexander and died in Persia in 324 B.C., driving the king into a frenzy of grief during which he ordered a series of monuments to be built. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



A residential building partially collapsed after the attack, in Liucheng county in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Wednesday. CHINATOPIX VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

7 killed by explosives in mail

CHINA

Suspect is local man; state treating case as criminal act

More than a dozen blasts triggered by explosive devices delivered in mail packages killed at least seven people and injured more than 50 in a small city in southern China on Wednesday, officials and state media said.

The Ministry of Public Security said it was treating the case as a criminal act, and not terrorism. It said a 33-year-old local man, identified only by his family name of Wei, was considered a suspect, but provided no further details, including a possible motive or whether the man had been detained. Local media reported the suspect had been apprehended.

A local Communist Party newspaper, the Guangxi Daily, cited police as saying there were 17 explosions in Liucheng, leaving seven people dead, two missing and 51 injured.

The explosions, which occurred between 3:15 p.m. and 5 p.m., hit a hospital, local markets, a shopping mall, a bus station and several government buildings, including a jail and dormitories for government workers, according to a police statement posted by the local newspaper Nanguo Zaobao.

"There were so many of them,

and they were so loud, everyone in (Liucheng) could hear them," said a hotel employee who gave only his family name, Li. The hotel is near a township office building that was hit by one of the explosions.

Zhou Changqing, the police chief for the city of Liuzhou, which has jurisdiction over Liucheng, said the blasts were triggered by explosive devices delivered in several mail packages, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

A supermarket employee said the store was evacuated immediately when an adjacent supermarket was hit by an explosion.

"All of us heard the blast. It was very loud," he said.

Photos posted online showed streets filled with smoke, strewn debris, dust clouds in the sky and the rubble from a five-storey building that had partially collapsed.

The official Xinhua News Agency reported that at least one more explosion hit downtown Liuzhou, away from Liucheng. It did not say whether there were any casualties from that blast or whether it was connected to the ones in Liucheng.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



They sounded like someone was blasting rocks in the mountain.

Hotel employee Li

IN BRIEF

U.S. woman, accused of tossing newborn from window, appears in court

A New York woman accused of concealing her pregnancy and then tossing her newborn daughter from a seventh-story window has appeared in court on a murder charge.

Thirty-three-year-old Jennifer Berry was arraigned late Tuesday in Bronx Criminal Court and was being held without bail.

Authorities say Berry went

to her boyfriend's home, gave birth and threw the baby out the window Monday. Berry's boyfriend told police he didn't know she had given birth or know she was pregnant.

The newborn's umbilical cord was still attached. The baby was discovered in an alleyway by the building superintendent's wife.

The medical examiner says the baby died from blunt force trauma in the fall.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UN changes HIV rules, says doctors should treat patients immediately

The World Health Organization has revised its HIV guidelines to recommend that anyone who tests positive for the virus that causes AIDS should be treated immediately.

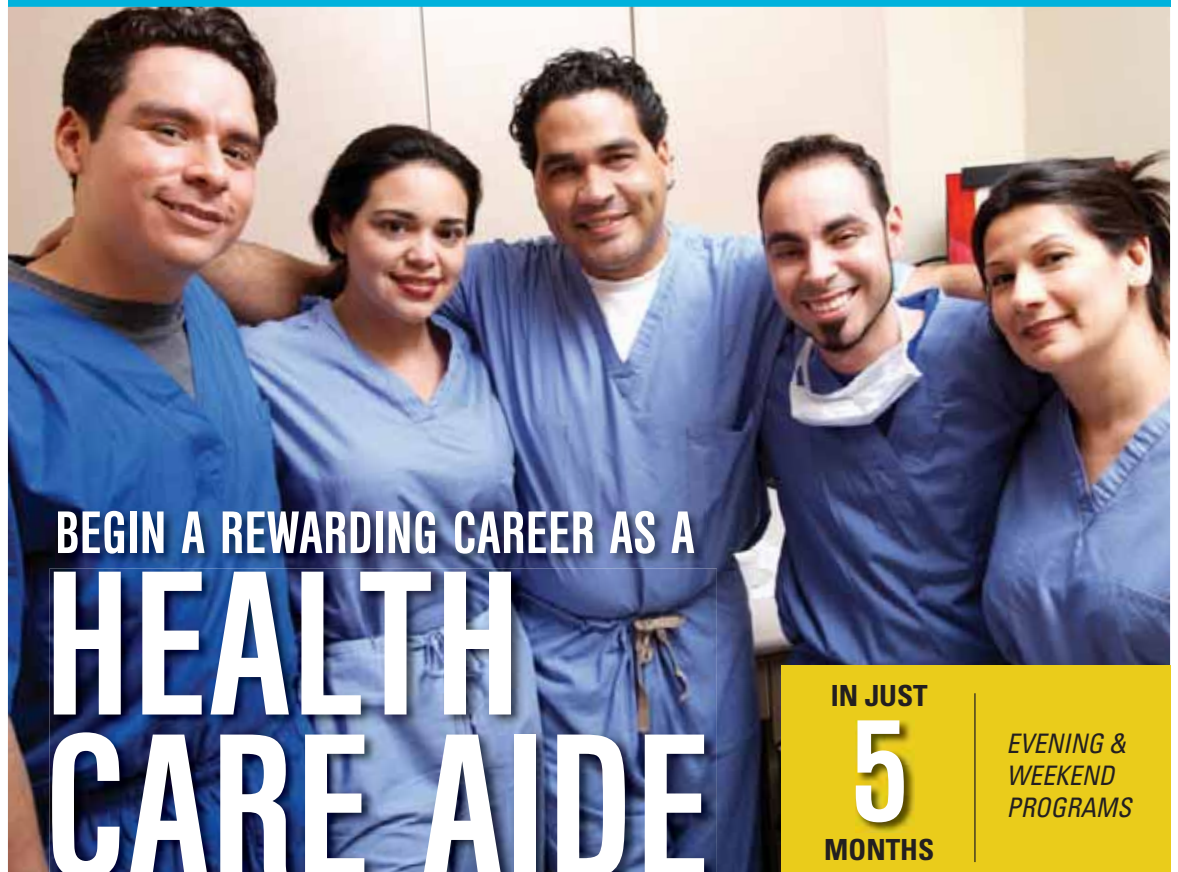
The UN health agency had previously said doctors should wait to treat people with HIV until their immune systems suggested they were getting sick. In a statement

Wednesday, WHO said the new recommendations are based on recent trials that have found early treatment "keeps people with HIV alive, healthier and reduces the risk of transmitting the virus."

The new guidance means that all 37 million people with HIV globally should be offered immediate treatment, a prospect that may be unrealistic in poor countries, where many patients are still unable to get medicines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

Poll says 40% of young adults in U.S. pay for news

In a world flush with free information, some young people are still willing to shell out for news they read. A recent poll shows that 40 per cent of U.S. adults aged 18-34 pay for at least some of the news they read, whether it's a print newspaper, a digital news app or an email newsletter. The survey of 1,045 young adults was conducted from Jan. 5 through Feb. 2, 2015, by the Media Insight Project, a partnership between the AP-NORC Center and the American Press Institute.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McDonald's serves a new experience

FOOD INDUSTRY

Rebranded ordering options to debut by 2017

McDonald's Canada CEO John Betts says lining up to pay for the same old burger will soon be a thing of the past.

The company is overhauling the way it does business, adding self-service kiosks and bringing table service and dedicated wait staff to its restaurants.

"We are kicking off a bold plan to transform what guests experience when they visit McDonald's restaurants across Canada," says Betts. "We want our guests to walk in and be wowed by an experience that's modern and personalized, but still the McDonald's they know and love."

The new kiosks will allow customers to personalize their orders as McDonald's adds a premium burger to the menu with nearly 30 different options including five types of cheese, 12 toppings, two buns, a lettuce wrap and nine sauces.

The company says the plan will include the creation of 15,000 new jobs across the country as it adds employees who will greet customers and guide them through the



As part of the shift, the initiative will create 15,000 jobs domestically, and will encourage continued use of food sourced from Canadian suppliers. EUGENE HOSHIKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



We're innovating and evolving for the future.

CEO John Betts

ordering process.

Betts says most of the 1,400 McDonald's restaurants in

Canada will be changed to the new ordering format by 2017.

The company said it is also continuing its mission to provide food that tastes good, and to use quality ingredients, many of which are sourced from Canadian suppliers. Future plans for the restaurant chain will also aim to advance McDonald's

sustainability and Canadian sourcing initiatives.

"We always listen to our guests, and this ambitious plan is exactly what they've asked us to do," said Betts. "We're innovating and evolving for the future, and we're excited to bring our guests along on this journey with us." METRO, WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

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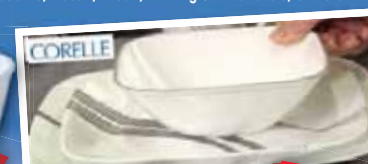
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CHANTAL HÉBERT: ON THE NDP IN QUEBEC



“A repeat orange wave is indefinitely on hold, and things could actually get worse for the New Democrats.”

Less than a month ago, the NDP was poised to sweep Quebec for the second federal election in a row. Now, a repeat orange wave is indefinitely on hold and things could actually get worse for the New Democrats.

An Abacus poll published on Monday showed the NDP still leading the pack in Quebec, but down 17 points from a mid-September sounding. Other polls have reported a smaller drop but all concur on the trend. As the election gets nearer, Thomas Mulcair's party is falling from grace in Quebec.

There is no doubt the controversy over whether Muslim women should be required to unveil their faces to take the oath of citizenship is acting as a catalyst for the drop in party fortunes.

An overwhelming majority of Quebecers support a niqab ban. The NDP opposes it.

But the New Democrat campaign had started to lose steam before the niqab appeared on the radar, for reasons more fundamental than the pent-up passions unleashed by a Conservative play on the identity front.

From a Quebec perspective the NDP's platform is an overwhelming one.

With the provincial government's cost-cutting crusade already taking a toll on its social programs, it is hard to think of a NDP commitment more likely to miss the mark with Quebec's progressive voters than the come-hell-or-

high-water determination to balance the federal books. If anything, many Quebecers are suffering from an overdose of government-imposed austerity.

The promise of a national universal child-care system has short legs in a province that has set up the most comprehensive program in the country on its own.

Mulcair's call to open the Constitution to abolish the Senate is similarly of limited appeal.

For one, it pits the NDP leader against Quebec Premier Philippe Couillard. He believes the Senate should be reformed, not abolished. And then there is the matter of Quebec's own long-standing constitutional agenda. Couillard insists that a round on the Senate would have to include

it as well.

On that score, Mulcair did not help his cause when he told Radio-Canada two weeks ago that the premier's stance was just part of the game.

Going into the campaign, the NDP leader's Quebec trump card was the sense that he was best placed to beat Stephen Harper. More so than any federal NDP initiative, it was the party's victory in Alberta last spring that cemented Mulcair's formidable pre-campaign lead in his home province. Now the fact that the party is running third in the rest of Canada is sinking in.

At this juncture, the question on everyone's mind is whether the NDP has hit bottom in Quebec or whether it could continue to lose support

THE MICROTREND: The prolific province



Ah, Saskatchewan. Wholesome, flat Saskatchewan. The province of grain growers, Saskatoon berries, and ... babies? Yes. So many babies. Saskatchewan is bucking the Canada-wide trend towards an aging population. The children from this fertile land still outnumber seniors. According to a new Statistics Canada report, 19 per cent of Saskatchewanians are under 15 years old, compared to a 16 per cent average in Canada. Just 14.6 per cent of the population is 65 or older, versus 16.1 per cent nationwide. Why? In part, it's a growing population of indigenous people, who tend to skew younger and have higher fertility rates. And as for the dearth of old folks — many are retiring elsewhere to escape those cold prairie nights.

SOURCE: NEWS TALK 650/THE CANADIAN PRESS

From a Quebec perspective, the NDP platform is an overwhelming one.

metroview

Want to close the pay gap? Women need to talk more about money



Renee Sylvestre-Williams
For Metro

Let's talk about something we rarely talk about: salaries.

Two incidents have shaped my views on salary negotiations.

The first was when I was negotiating my first salary increase. I was at an online media company and had recently taken on new responsibilities and hit some pretty impressive, measurable targets. I wanted a raise because I thought I deserved one. I made an appointment to speak with my boss.

After 30 excruciating minutes, I got a two-per-cent increase with a condescending, "You should be grateful for that." I handed in my notice three months later. I couldn't work for someone who tried to make me feel bad about asking for more money.

Canadian women make significantly lower wages than men for many reasons: A shortfall of women in senior positions, a widespread fear of asking for more and a dearth of conversations at the grassroots level.

We can help each other understand what we're worth.

To close the gap, we need to talk about money. We should talk about which companies provide the best work-life balance, which have the best perks and which offer the best pay.

Yet how many of us negotiate our salaries, or have told our friends what we make? Most don't.

According to a report released in May by the WEB Alliance of Women's Business Networks, Canadian women make an average of \$8,000 per year less than men in equivalent positions.

By discussing our salaries with our friends, we can tear down the systemic barriers that stop us from earning the same pay as men. We can help each other understand what we're worth.

And that's how you will get the support you're going to need when, not if, you ask for more money.

The second incident was when I was doing the hiring. We offered the candidate the full salary as budgeted. She asked for more. I told her we had offered her as much as we could afford. And I was so happy that she asked.

So, we need to have this conversation. I'll start. I freelance, so my income depends on how much work I get — but in my best year, I make close to \$70,000.

Now it's your turn.

Renee Sylvestre-Williams is the publisher of the Ethnic Aisle, a digital magazine about race and ethnicity in Toronto.

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PHILOSOPHERCAT
by Jason Logan

AN IDEALIST IS A PERSON WHO HELPS OTHER PEOPLE BE PROSPEROUS.





Not your average chick-lit author

BOOKS

Jojo Moyes releases the sequel to 2013 bestseller

A book that wins millions of fans is a tough act to follow. And British novelist Jojo Moyes was all too aware of this as she wrote *After You*, the sequel to her New York Times bestseller *Me Before You*.

"It has been the most nerve-racking book that I've ever written," she said in an interview. "So many people feel so invested in these characters."

To say that *Me Before You* was an unexpected hit is an understatement.

When Moyes decided to write a romance between a caregiver and her depressed, paralyzed patient, her publisher was lukewarm.

"In hindsight I can understand why," Moyes says with a laugh. "A quadriplegic man who wants to die doesn't sound like the most compelling piece of fiction."

Except, of course, it was. *Me Before You* introduced the world to Louisa Clark, an endearing English everywoman. Her predictable, small-town life was blown open when she went to work for neighbour Will Traynor, a London hotshot who had been paralyzed by a traffic accident.

Their bond was intimate and powerful, but ultimately not enough to save Will from despair — and in the final



British author Jojo Moyes' latest novel *After You* hit shelves this week. HANDOUT

pages they made the journey to Dignitas in Switzerland to end his life.

Hardly your average chick-lit plot, but then Moyes has never been your average chick-lit author.

The former journalist distinguished herself early on from the cocktail-sipping masses.

Known for her wit, humour and cultural savvy, Moyes writes against the grain, sidestepping the familiar tropes of glamor-

ous jobs and syrupy soul mates.

"I have an absolute horror of being seen as somebody who just writes the handsome man who came in and swept her off her feet and everyone lives happily ever after," she says. "I'm far more interested in the messy stuff."

Me Before You catapulted Moyes out of this pink ghetto and made her a bona fide literary star.

She was reviewed by serious

publications and tapped by MGM to write the screenplay for *Me Before You*, due to hit theatres in 2016.

Most significantly for Moyes — who's had two family members require around-the-clock care — it placed her at the centre of the assisted suicide debate.

"I don't think you can hang onto a moral absolute if you are faced with the reality of that situation," she says. "The

only people who know all the answers are the people who've never been faced with the questions."

Moyes began to receive daily emails from readers around the world.

"The ones that really stand out to me are from the caregivers," she says. "They get me into the same head space as Lou, which is: you don't see the disability, you see the person that you love."

The character Lou was a lightning rod for all this emotion and people clamoured to know what happened to her. Moyes found herself wondering too.

And so *After You*, out this week, resurrects her. The novel finds Lou holed up in London, reverting back to her old ways, leading a claustrophobic life and tending bar at an Irish-themed airport pub.

"To be part of someone taking their own life would be such a huge event," says Moyes. "I needed to show that there was a cost to those sorts of decisions."

Lou belongs to a comical church basement grief group, The Moving On Circle, but is otherwise alone (until a surprise plot twist blows open her world once again).

"When I put myself in her shoes, I thought: What would you do? You would just be leading this very solitary existence. Because how on Earth could you justify what you've been part of to people who don't know the whole story?"

"That is one of the things that intrigues me and is probably a theme that I'll return to again and again," she says.

"How things look from the outside are not necessarily how they are."

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Sex and politics of the beach vacation

FARZANA DOCTOR

Story follows character who works at an all-inclusive resort

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada



Creative inspiration can strike at the oddest times.

Just ask Toronto author Farzana Doctor, who had been working on her third novel, *All Inclusive*, for several years and was feeling stuck and frustrated.

Then one night, a voice spoke to her as she was riding her bike down a steep hill.

Doctor's story follows a young woman named Ameera, who lives and works at a Mexican all-inclusive resort.

After hearing that voice speak to her, Doctor knew immediately that the missing character was Ameera's father, Azeez, who died in the 1985 Air India bombing that killed more than 300 passengers and crew.



I began to wonder about the ... inequalities that allow middle-class Canadians to enjoy these vacations

Farzana Doctor

"When I stopped my bike to take this in, I felt, 'Oh my God, I don't want to write about that,'" Doctor says.

"I also wondered, 'Can I write about it? I don't have a personal connection. I'm not a family member of one of the victims.'"

As she started researching the Air India tragedy, considered the worst terrorist act in Canadian history, Doctor realized there hasn't been much fiction published on the subject.

"I thought I could write a story from a different perspective, and add to the remembrance of this really important event," she says. "You want to address the issue with integrity — there are real family members of the victims out there."

At the heart of *All Inclusive*, published by Dundurn Press,

is Ameera's relationship with Azeez, though she never had a chance to physically meet her father, who was killed in the bombing a day after a brief tryst with her mother.

But he is a presence, as he observes her life on the resort from the afterworld.

Doctor says she has a "love-hate relationship" with all-inclusives, stemming from when she was a child.

"These are places where my family went on vacation and I got a lot of attention from my fairly busy parents," she says. "But then as I grew more politicized, I began to wonder about the social and financial inequalities that allow middle-class Canadians to enjoy these vacations where the staff are invisible and in the background."

Six years ago while vaca-

tioning at a resort, she became fascinated with one of the tour operators.

"How does she live? What is it like to work here? It's the middle of winter and I wondered what it would be like to live in a tropical place all the time, and to deal with annoying tourists," Doctor says.

"These resorts are a bit like walled-in amusement parks. They exist within countries but they are countries unto themselves, and feel like a blank slate for writing a novel."

In *All Inclusive*, Ameera not only deals with tourists, but they're also a source of sexual pleasure, as she discreetly hooks up with vacationing couples whom she hopes she'll never see again.

"I wanted to explore her sexuality as a metaphor for her growth. I see all that as a way of her becoming more grounded in who she is," says Doctor.

"But really, the book is about a father and a daughter finding themselves and each other."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



MARGARET ATWOOD

A modern, dystopian satire

Margaret Atwood is clearly having fun.

Her latest book *The Heart Goes Last*, is a romp of a book featuring sex robots, Elvis impersonators and blue teddy bears that are sure to give you nightmares for weeks to come.

And she's having a blast on Twitter, of which she's a prodigious user — she's tweeted pics of herself in Vegas on the arm of a Captain Jack impersonator.

"That's the fun bit" about social media, she says, in an interview in the airy downtown Toronto offices of Penguin Random House Canada where we're talking about the book as well as the possibilities of technology.

The Heart Goes Last began on Byliner, a "boutique" website that published literary authors online. Four episodes of the then-titled *Positron* series went up, but Byliner went down and the rights for the story reverted to Atwood and her Byliner editor Amy Grace Loyd suggested it become a book.

She calls it "a dark romantic comedy in which there are no heroes." But as with anything Atwood, satire ensures that even when you are having fun, you feel slightly uncomfortable.

The Heart Goes Last is a comment on current politics — on unbridled capitalism, on the trend to the conservative right,

on the tough economic times being faced by young people whose employment is precarious and whose dreams of a stable job, home and family are getting tougher to attain.

It's a thoroughly modern story, yet Atwood hearkens back to Victorian times and that era's novels of manners and the

probably shouldn't be there at all and they're learning to be criminals."

This gives you a clue to what she really seems to be getting at in the latest of her more than 40 books of poetry, non-fiction and fiction.

So the idea is: why not use the prison for good: Let's give everybody a job and a roof over their heads. That gives birth in the book to the *Positron* Project — those who sign up live happily in the town of Consilience; the only trick is they have to live in a prison every second month.

"This is a nice utopian scheme, it is a time-sharing scheme in which you play the prisoner one month and you get to be a citizen the next month."

The world of Consilience is filled with echoes of the '50s. "They structure it to be a very calming situation."

It doesn't quite work out as a panacea to society's ills, but it does provide Atwood a way of looking at human nature — both of those who are running the joint and those who have signed up to stay inside.

Which brings us back to the sex robots.

"With each of the technologies we develop there's a good side, a dark side and a stupid side which are the effects we hadn't anticipated." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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GOSSIP BREAKUPS

Long time coming

Amanda Seyfried has apparently kicked boyfriend Justin Long to the curb after two years of dating, according to Us Weekly. "It happened a few weeks ago," a source explains. "He's really heartbroken." Earlier this year in an interview with Vogue, Seyfried both revealed how she initially fell for Long — on



Instagram, if you can believe it — and hinted that things might not be working out so well.

"I thought something he said was really funny. It was a beautiful picture of a snail, and the caption said, 'F—ing MOOOOOOOOOVE.' It made me laugh out loud, so I texted him," she explained.

But: "Making movies is two solid months of 12-, 14-hour

days. I mean, it can ruin your relationship." Apparently she wasn't just talking hypothetically. NED EHRBAR/METRO

Austin Green wants that green

Poor Brian Austin Green. Not only is he going through a divorce — amicable or not — with Megan Fox, but now everyone gets to see the documents showing him ask-



ing her for spousal support. TMZ got

its hands on the filing this week in which Green valiantly checks the "spousal or domestic partner support" box, indicating that Fox is the bigger earner of the two. Which makes sense since Green has apparently been battling vertigo and not working much since he and Fox were in a car accident last December. Bummer, man. NED EHRBAR/METRO

O Brother, There art thou

SCREENING

Clooney and Coens reunite for film's 15th anniversary

George Clooney joined the Coen brothers, and co-stars Tim Blake Nelson and John Turturro at a special 15th-anniversary screening of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* at the New York Film Festival.

Clooney remembered he had just left a successful TV series when the opportunity came up.

"I was an actor coming off of *ER*," said Clooney Tuesday night after arriving at the event. "The Coen brothers said, 'Do you want to do a movie?' And I was like, 'Yeah, I'll do a movie with the Coen brothers, are you kidding? They do great films.' I just couldn't believe my luck."

Clooney admits he felt a geographic familiarity with the characters. "I grew up in Kentucky and I kind of know these guys a little bit," he said.

Ethan Coen and his brother, Joel, wrote the screenplay, based on *The Odyssey* by Homer, and directed it. While the film was critically



George Clooney talks with Joel Coen on the red carpet before a special 15th anniversary screening of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* during the New York Film Festival. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

acclaimed and enjoyed moderate success, the soundtrack was a smash hit. Produced by T Bone Burnett, it was made up of artists from the American roots music scene that included Alison Krauss, Ralph Stanley, Gillian Welch and Emmylou Harris. It sold 8 million albums and earned a Grammy Award for album of the year.

Coen loved how the music and the film unexpectedly came together, but also discussed the tricky marriage of the two.

One of biggest hits from the film, *I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow*, sung by the fictional Soggy Bottom Boys, which included Clooney, Blake-Nelson and Turturro, does not include Clooney's voice. It was actual-

ly bluegrass musician Dan Tyminski.

Clooney told reporters he originally recorded the track, but after he came out of the recording booth, producer Burnett just put his head down and looked away. Clooney said he knew at that moment his voice was getting dubbed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RELATIONSHIPS

Ben dumps his nanny

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood



They said it was just a phase, and apparently they were right. Ben Affleck has reportedly called off his post-divorce dalliance with his and Jennifer Garner's former nanny, Christine Ouzounian — to the rejoice of spell-checkers everywhere.

"He cut ties with her recently," a source tells *Life & Style*. "He told Christine he couldn't handle another relationship when things were still so painful and raw between him and Jen."



Sure, that. And maybe also because you shouldn't date the nanny? I mean, I understand the siren song of convenience and all, but come on. "He had fun with (her), but it wasn't love," the source adds, wistfully.

You know who was totally surprised by this development? Ouzounian herself, apparently, who was "blindsided" by the breakup.

"When Ben finally told Christine things were over, she was pissed," another source says. "Christine is very upset and says Ben should be worried. In her mind, this is far from over."

Oh, delightful.

VEHICULAR MANSLAUGHTER

Jenner off the hook

Prosecutors declined to charge Caitlyn Jenner on Wednesday in a California car crash that killed another driver, citing insufficient evidence to support a case.

Authorities said Jenner was towing an off-road vehicle on a trailer behind a Cadillac Escalade on Feb. 7 when she crashed into two cars, pushing one into oncoming traffic. Driver Kim Howe died when her Lexus was hit by a Hummer in Malibu.

"We believed from the start that a thorough and objective investigation would clear Caitlyn of any criminal wrongdoing," said Blair Berk, Jenner's attorney. "We are heartened the district attorney has agreed that even a misdemeanor charge would be inappropriate. A traffic accident, however devastating and heartbreaking when a life is lost, is not necessarily a criminal matter."

The accident occurred before Jenner announced she is transgender and transitioned into her new identity as Caitlyn. Sheriff's investigators previously determined that Jenner, 65, was travelling at an unsafe speed for the road conditions at the time and there was enough evidence to support a vehicular manslaughter charge.

The case was then referred to the district attorney's major crimes division. A prosecutor wrote in a one-page sheet declining to file charges that Jenner was travelling slightly below the posted speed limit and began braking less than two seconds before the crash.

To prove misdemeanor vehicular manslaughter, prosecutors would have had to show Jenner was negligent and had violated a basic speed law.

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What's old is new again

CONDO TRENDS

A look at historic home renos and condo conversions around Canada

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada



In a popular real estate trend, former warehouses, churches and industrial buildings all across Canada are being converted into lofts and condos. In addition, a number of new condo builds are incorporating a historic podium or heritage facade, serving as the base of a brand-new tower rising above.

When done right, these venerable residential transformations make for a unique and classical living space, with vaulted ceilings, sash windows, limestone features, exposed brick and period lighting fixtures — exquisite details that you just don't find in contemporary buildings.

The former Eden House at 147 East Gate in Winnipeg was built in 1885, and has a lot of the original character to it. The century home is currently up for sale. "It's got that grand old home feel; it still has the servants' quarters," says real estate agent Tannis Engel.

Originally the Arthur F. Eden house, it's the oldest standing house in Armstrong Point. "It's right in the heart of downtown in a little pocket community along the river," says Tannis. The family has owned the property for 37 years. "It's true to its original size and shape and



she (current owner Roslyn Scott) has restored it as accurately as she could."

In Edmonton, Chandos Construction Ltd. jacked-up a five-storey heritage building, previously used as a warehouse, and built a parkade under it. No small feat under any circumstances. The Phillips Lofts at 10169-104th St. is a heritage condo conversion in Edmonton's Warehouse District.

The existing structure of the 90,000-sq.-ft. building consisted of rough-sawn timbers with a post-and-



The former Eden House at Armstrong Point in Winnipeg was built in 1885, and still has a lot of its original character. ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



The Residences of Royal Connaught in Hamilton.

+ OUR CITY

Imperial Lofts

220 11th Ave. SE, Calgary

With towering 13-foot ceilings and an open floor plan, these authentic lofts boast exposed brick walls and a concrete framework, with downtown views through industrial-sized windows. Built in 1929 to house the Imperial Tobacco Company, the vintage building was converted to condos in 1995.

beam configuration. The Chandos design team incorporated these features to maintain the heritage of the building.

The Residences of Royal Connaught at 112 King St. E. in Hamilton, Ont., is a century-old grand hotel that has been meticulously renovated by Valery Homes and the Spallacci Group and converted into modern condominium suites.

An exquisite art-deco lobby is the centrepiece of the heritage restoration. The grand foyer opens up to 23-foot ceilings with crystal chandeliers. Designed by KNY Architects, the completed project will include three new residential towers housing 700 condominium suites in the heart of downtown.

Valery Homes president Ted Valeri says that a project of this magnitude has many challenges. They literally saved the old hotel from the wrecking ball and brought it back to life.

"We've never done anything quite so fulfilling and satisfying," Valeri says. "It's a very rewarding feeling. The Royal Connaught is a special place to Hamiltonians."

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A neighbourhood with quiet charm

CONTRIBUTED

KILLARNEY TOWNES



Project overview

Killarney Townes is one of a handful of highly anticipated projects undertaken by Streetside Developments. With five buildings hosting 20 homes, these luxury units mimic a large infill home fitting nicely into the vibrant community of Killarney.

Building amenities

Along with developed basements and single car garages, Killarney Townes residents can also enjoy plenty of space with an open-concept design. Featuring high ceilings, gas fireplaces and an expansive media room, these units also boast a cosy upper loft with a private balcony.

Location and transit

With the luxury of a quiet, comfortable neighbourhood, Killarney Townes is accessible to bus routes along 37 Street and 17th Avenue as well as the new West LRT station. For commuters, the new homes are just a few blocks away from major roads like Crowchild Trail and Glenmore Trail.

+ EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: Killarney Townes
Builder: Streetside Developments
Location: 2432 30th St. SW (Showhome)
Building: Luxury townhomes
Sizes: From 1,780 sq. ft. to 1,922 sq. ft.
Pricing: Starting from

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Occupancy: Immediate possession homes available
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Phone: 403-815-7311
Website: killarneytownes.ca

In the neighbourhood

Killarney Townes is only a short trip away from major retail centres like Signal Hill Shopping Centre and Westbrook Mall. Close to Mount Royal University, this quaint neighbourhood hosts pleasant walking routes, parks and Killarney Aquatic and Recreation Centre. ANNA BROOKS/FOR METRO

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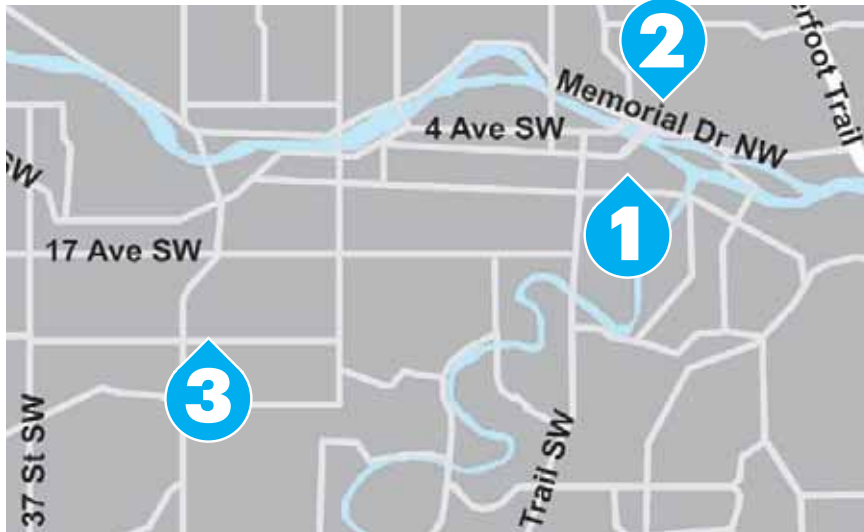
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REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market



ANNA BROOKS/FOR METRO

1 EAST VILLAGE

Hot spots: Check out INK by Battistella Developments, a new East Village condo development showcasing the work of ACAD artists at the presentation centre. For more information visit #108 535 8 Ave. SE on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. or call 403-290-1664.

2 BRIDGELAND

Now selling: Bridgeland Hill is the latest in affordable developments by Gablecraft Homes in the trendy area of Bridgeland. See the sales centre at 736 1 Ave. NE Monday through Thursday from noon to 6 p.m. and weekends from noon to 5 p.m. For more information call 403-456-2329.

3 MARDA LOOP

Open house: Check out Sarina Homes' brand new project Amaya in the bustling neighbourhood of Marda Loop. An open house of this beautiful attached home property is being held Oct. 3 from noon to 4 p.m. at #2 2233 26 Ave. SW. For more information call 403-249-8003.

Living with less space

BALANCE

Families join the tiny-house movement

Last year, William and Laura Baird got rid of half of their kids' toys, half of their kitchen's contents and a third of the family's clothes. It wasn't just de-cluttering — they also ditched almost three-quarters of their home's square footage, moving from a three-bedroom house into the 440-square-foot cabin on wheels that they share with their three children, three cats and a hamster.

"I was looking for less to clean," Laura Baird said. "Less upkeep, less impact on the environment, less electricity, less use of resources."

Living with less is the philosophy behind the tiny-house movement — the rising popularity of scaled-down homes, usually less than 500 square feet, some as small as 80 square feet.

Living in these small spaces does mean less responsibility (low prices means many are mortgage-free) but a growing group of tiny-house dwellers are far from rootless vagabonds.



The Baird children play outside their cabin on wheels in Myrtle Beach, S.C. ALL PHOTOS LAURA BAIRD VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Like the Bairds, they're parents with young children.

Laura, a nature educator at a state park, and William, a philosophy professor, have gotten creative to maximize space in their new home, which is parked in a campground in Myrtle Beach, S.C. (they plan to eventually move it to their own land). They've built a fold-out table for family meals, installed bunk beds for their eight-year-old twin daughters and designated their four-year-old son's sleeping loft as the playroom.

The family is still trimming down their belongings and settling on where to store things

but the parents like that they spend more time together as a family, and more time outdoors.

Small-space living with kids means balancing a commitment to minimalism with the realities of family life, said Derek Diedricksen, author of *Microshelters: 59 Creative Cabins, Tiny Houses, Tree Houses, and Other Small Structures*.

"Just because you have a space that a kid can sleep in, that's not going to be enough," he said. "You need some common living and breathing and moving space.... It shouldn't be a jigsaw game of Jenga to be able to sit down." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





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6

BATH MATS TO ADD STYLISH CUSHION UNDERFOOT

You might not be able to renovate your bathroom into a luxury spa, but you can sure as heck add some whimsy. Here are six fabulous bath mats to help absorb your drips.

Karl Lohnes
For Metro Canada



1 I Woke Up Like This Bath Mat
Empower yourself every morning. \$42, UrbanOutfitters.com

2 Lacoste Memory Foam Bath Mat
Show them your luxurious preppy side. \$50, TheBay.com

3 Victorian Whale Bath Mat
Invite this majestic sea creature into your bathroom for a while of a time. \$58, Anthropologie.com

4 Microdry Memory Foam #WASH Bath Mat
Hashtag your bath time for guaranteed popularity. \$15, BedBathAndBeyond.ca

5 Marine Anchor Bath Mat
Lure your favourite sailor into the tub for some clean fun. \$20, Simons.ca

6 Star Wars Bath Rug
Darth Vader needs to shower too. \$35, Sears.ca



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NEW FURNITURE & MORE: 6 PCE LEATHER RECLINING CHAIRS, LEATHER SOFA SECTIONAL, LEATHER POWER RECLINER, LEATHER ROCKER RECLINERS, SWIVEL LEATHER CHAIR & OTTOMAN, FABRIC SOFA SECTIONAL, (2) FABRIC RECLINERS, (2) DINING TABLE & 6 CHAIRS, ELECTRIC FIREPLACE TV STAND, SAMSUNG FRONT LOAD AQUAJET WASHER & MOISTURE SENSOR DRYER, EURODB WINE/BEVERAGE COOLER, FRIGIDAIRE FRIDGES, SAMSUNG DISHWASHER, WOODS UPRIGHT FREEZER, U SHAPED WORKSTATION, HALL BENCHES, SANYO WINE COOLER, KING BED WITH STORAGE DRAWERS, CHAISE LOUNGER, LEATHER OFFICE CHAIRS, BARSTOOLS, PATIO SWING DAYBED WITH CANOPY, FREEMOTION ELLIPTICAL, MATTRESSES & BOX SPRINGS, DARK WOOD HIGH BOY DRESSER, DOUBLE BED, FLAT SCREEN TV CABINET, CABINET, COFFEE TABLES & MORE...

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Tight budget? Time for DIY decor

PROJECTS

With a little elbow grease, there's lots you can do within a budget

Analyse Smart For Metro

After dropping a decent chunk of change on a down payment for a home, most first-time homeowners will be on a tight budget. On the other hand, they're also eager to put their stamp on their new home. This is where DIY projects come in.

Andrea Utter, owner and principle designer of Buttercup Design, a design firm based outside of Toronto, says with a little elbow grease and basic know-how, there's lot of improvements you can make yourself within a reasonable budget.

Painting is something most people can do on their own. Utter recommends not only

painting the interior of your new home — walls, ceiling trim — but also your exterior. The front door, she says, "is kind-of the focal point, the smile of your house," so play it up with a bold or dark hue, while the garage door should blend in with the brick or siding.

If you have a bit of saw experience, Utter also recommends considering going for chunkier baseboards and casing. "It makes a huge difference," she says.

Kitchens are one of the most well-used spaces in the home, so it's a good place to invest in upgrades. Utter says instead of replacing all of your cabinets, you can paint them with a melamine paint, which is very durable. Keep extra paint on hand for the inevitable nicks and scratches, she advises.

Your colour palette might be influenced by the size of your kitchen, although white or cream is always in. "It's pretty trendy to do your island darker, or do the base cabinets darker and the higher cabinets lighter," she says. "But depending on how big

your kitchen is, if you have a smaller kitchen you want to keep that contrast down because that is going to create the feeling of a smaller space."

Subway tiles with a contrasting grout are very in right now, a look Utter describes as "contemporary and cozy and maybe a little bit country, but in a modern way."

When to call in the pros

Utter cautions that there are some things that you should really leave to the experts.

This includes any major type of plumbing project, anything to do with your HVAC, fireplace, gas or electrical.

"Lots of people will hang lights and things like that, but even still, you could start a fire, or have a misconnection, so it's not super safe," she says.



Painting is something most people can do on their own — or on someone's shoulders. SHUTTERSTOCK



Is your home covered from tornadoes, floods and other mother-nature disasters? SHUTTERSTOCK

Disaster insurance

Floods, tornadoes and ice storms have battered major centres across Canada in the past few years, leaving many homeowners wondering if they have adequate insurance coverage against natural disasters.

"The year 2013 was a record year for Canadian insurance companies to help their customers recover from storms. Claims for damages to Canadian homes reached \$3.3 billion that year," says Pete Karageorgos, director of consumer and industry relations in Ontario for the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC). With scientists warning that climate change will bring about more frequent and severe weather events, it's prudent for homeowners to take a close look at their insurance policies to be aware of what sorts of catastrophes they're protected against — and any add-ons they

should have.

"Most severe weather events are covered under a home insurance policy," says Karageorgos, noting the exception is usually water related claims and earthquakes. Insurance policies don't normally cover flooding (caused by a body of water, not a pipe burst) or sewer backup. Sewer backup is one piece of coverage that can be easily added on to an existing homeowner policy. The more difficult coverage is flooding, because floods are often a predictable occurrence and building a house on a flood plain carries known risks. "It's not a matter of if a flood will occur, it's a matter of when," says Karageorgos, however, noting at the same time that Canadian insurance companies are beginning to offer such coverage.

"Companies understand

there's an appetite for flood coverage and most homes today have basements that are fixed up to be additional living space and when flooding does occur, it usually impacts the lower levels of the home," says Karageorgos, warning if flood insurance is offered, it will likely be expensive, because of the likelihood of policyholders to collect on it. Because insurance is based on losses from prior years, current policies for disaster events are likely to be more expensive because of the losses that have occurred over the last few years. "People don't want to pay an exorbitant premium, so less people will sometimes buy (things like flood insurance), which shrinks the pool of policyholders, which can make it even more expensive," says Karageorgos.

LIZ BROWN/FOR METRO



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The mistakes homebuyers make

COSTLY

First-time homebuyers can end up investing in a nightmare

Analyse Smart For Metro

Buying a home can be one of the most rewarding decisions you'll make, but make the wrong moves, and you could end up investing in a costly nightmare.

Mike Stewart, a Vancouver-based Realtor®, shares some of the most common mistakes he sees with first-time home buyers.

Not speaking to a lender or mortgage broker first

Stewart says most people wouldn't go shopping without knowing how much money they have in the bank or available credit on their cards, and the same should apply when shopping for a home.

"A lot of first-time homebuyers get out there and say, 'OK, great, my mom says I can get a



Research the real estate agent beforehand so you know there's expertise behind that firm handshake. SHUTTERSTOCK

loan for \$700,000. Let's go find a place," he says. "And then they spend all their time, all their family's time, all their Realtor's time, get an accepted

offer on a property and after a huge big hassle it turns out they can only afford \$200,000."

Talking to a mortgage broker first, he says, will let you know

exactly what you're working with.

Not hiring a Realtor

Stewart says you should always

get a Realtor, who will prevent you from making mistakes like overpaying. "Hiring someone who knows what they're doing and you don't have to pay

them — that's worth its weight in gold," he says.

You should also make sure to research the people you will be hiring beforehand.

"The Internet is the most powerful system for doing due diligence on professionals that exists," he says. "If there's nothing on this person, they're probably not very experienced. If there's tons of stuff on this person and it's all positive, chances are you want to work with them. If it says Joe Realtor is a scumbag and he ripped me off, then you don't want to work with that person."

Not getting a home inspection

Getting a home inspection saves you from learning unpleasant truths about your home later. Stewart lists some of the possibilities that may await you should you not heed this advice.

"You buy a house with asbestos, you buy a house with mold, you buy a house that's been renovated without permits and you can't get insurance on it — if you can't get insurance, you can't get a mortgage," he says. "Basically, getting a home inspection will help you avoid buying a money pit."

Flipping versus buying

Real Estate is one of the smartest investments you can make. The long-term trend in Canada is that the value is almost certain to go up — but if you are looking for a quick turnaround, flipping may or may not be right for you.

John Stassen, a designer, contractor, renovator and former host of HGTV's The Big Flip, says buying with the intention of flipping versus a longer-term investment will call for different strategies.

When choosing a home to live in, buyers might be OK with paying a little above market value and won't want major renovations as it is just too disruptive.

Those looking to flip, however, are playing by a different set of rules.

"You're looking for the worst home on the best street, and you can't be afraid of walking away from a deal if the competition drives the price up beyond what your calculations show you can purchase it for," he says. "The most common mistakes made are underestimating the cost of the renovations and overpaying for a property you have chosen as a flip."

Stassen says you also need



You need a lot of working capital for flips. SHUTTERSTOCK

a lot more working capital for flips, with projects he's worked on ranging from under \$30,000 to more than \$180,000.

"You will definitely need access to extra cash and/or reasonable rate financing when taking on a project," he says. "While flipping you can go months

before seeing your profit on a project and you can't be left struggling to pay your own bills."

Choosing the "right" neighbourhood also becomes more important.

"The joke we had was if the area already has a Starbucks in it you'd missed the boat for flip-

FROM A BROKER

Lina Porretta, a broker with Forest Hill Real Estate in Toronto, says getting financing to flip a home is not as easy as it would be for your home. "Getting a mortgage for a second property isn't as easy as borrowing for your primary residence," she says. "If you aren't able to secure traditional financing, third party lenders charge premiums." Your taxes may also be different, so Porretta advises speaking with your accountant to understand the tax implications of your purchase.

ping," he says. "The key is to find areas that are just beginning to gain popularity."

Stassen says combining traditional home purchasing and flipping can be a great strategy. "If you can afford it the approach of buying a property while residing elsewhere, renovating it then moving in for a year or more before selling can provide the best of both worlds," he says.

ANALISE SMART/FOR METRO

THE HOOD

How to pick the right location

Location, location, location is the home-hunter's maxim, so how to choose?

Real estate professionals say that what makes something the "right" neighbourhood is as much a personal preference as it is an intrinsic rule.

Ramin Khaze, a sales representative with Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. Brokerage in Toronto, says his advice for choosing the right neighbourhood is the same he would give about choosing the right house.

"They need to keep in mind that there is no perfect neighbourhood just like there is no perfect house," he says. "No matter where you end up you will have to sacrifice something, whether it is the commute to work or a school district for kids, or access to public transportation."

Khaze says homebuyers need to make a list of what they want, with considera-

tions that include everything from budget, to whether they want a new home or an older one, right down to how many bathrooms are needed and what kind of finishes are desired.

Ideally you want to strike the right balance between the home you want and the neighbourhood you want, Khaze says.

"Some clients prefer to sacrifice size and living space to be more in the action Other clients would compromise the neighbourhood to have a house where they get what they want in size, bedrooms, land and such," he says. "It goes back what is important to you in a neighbourhood versus what is important to you in a house."

As for concerns about weighing budget against the desire to live in a particular neighbourhood, Khaze says buyers shouldn't stretch themselves too thin.

"I always tell clients to think with their heads and not their hearts, he says. "They may fall in love with a neighbourhood, but they may not end up enjoying it because they have stretched themselves so much financially they can't go out and enjoy it. You want to be comfortable in your new home and new area." **ANALISE SMART/FOR METRO**



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With unrivalled value, long-term amenities and the perfect location, Stepper Custom Homes in Legacy are designed with first-time homebuyers in mind, says area sales manager Josh Pearce.

"Buying your first home is an extremely big step for our future clients," Pearce says. "The benefits of buying with Stepper Custom Homes in Legacy is the security knowing you are trusting your families' future with Calgary's longest established family-owned and operated builders in the city.

"The attention to detail in our build process ensures that our buyers can be satisfied for years to come, all the while knowing that they have made the right investment

choosing Stepper Custom Homes."

And it starts with where the company builds, as well as how.

"When our buyers are in search of a community, they don't have to go far to see the huge upside that Legacy has to offer, situated just minutes south on Macleod Trail where you have easy access to the downtown core and major roadways, public transportation and it boasts more than 300 acres of natural environmental reserves or walking paths."

But that's not all, Pearce says.

"These days it's rare to have one school in the neighbourhood, and this amazing community will eventually have four schools built in the future, including one high school, which allows buyers to grow their families in one of the city's most prominent southeast communities."

The project is in Phase 6 with four beauti-



CONTRIBUTED

fully designed models to choose from — Lancaster, Landis, Livingston and Lambert. The homes range between 1,517 to 1,701 square feet and come with an attached oversized single garage, three large bedrooms, 2.5 full

bathrooms, dual sink master ensuite, upper floor laundry and loft option, and all have been upgraded from top to bottom, with the low starting price of \$409,900.

For more, visit Stepperhomes.com.

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COMMUNITY IS IDEAL PLACE TO START OR GROW A FAMILY

Whether you are purchasing your new home or your first home, you want more than just a neighbourhood — you want a community.

And that's why StreetSide Development's Origins in Cranston is the perfect choice for homebuyers who are seeking their oasis, says area manager Darcey Robertson.

"I can't say enough about this beautiful, established community," she says, adding there are low community fees, which makes it an attractive option to communities that charge higher fees. "It's truly a wonderful community, full of flavour and a personality of its own."

"Cranston offers an abundance of amenities, scenery and an active residents' association."

With the Bow River nearby, numerous parks and green space, and the home to at



CONTRIBUTED

least two future new schools, Cranston is the ideal community to start or grow a family.

"It may have a lot of green space and

feel like its own community. It's also close to transportation and roads, as well as a hospital and tonnes of shopping and other

amenities. This community has it all and then some."

Origins at Cranston is a three-storey apartment condominium complex with 68 suites, which will be added to the existing apartment style condominium and townhomes in the community, but were not built by Streetside.

"One of the benefits of our project is that after construction ceases, this corner of the community will be complete and there won't be any more construction," Robertson says.

The condos range in price from the \$180,000s to the \$340,000s, with possession in the fall of 2016.

Each suite was efficiently designed to maximize space and have large bedrooms and a balcony off the living area, while all feature a spacious eating bar and large walk-in closets in the master bedroom. All suites also contain pantries, linen closets and laundry capabilities in your unit.

For more information, visit the presentation centre at 111, 100 Cranfield Common S.E., or call 403-475-2181.

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Doctors say it's important for young people and the elderly to receive a flu shot to protect them from the flu virus. SHUTTERSTOCK

What do doctors prescribe?

ADVICE

Handwashing, flu shot are best ways to limit spread of viruses

Rhonda Riche
For Metro

With cold and flu season around the corner, Metro checked in with three doctors from across the country to see what steps they take to prevent or treat viruses.

Here is their advice:

DR. PIERRE PLOURDE, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES SPECIALIST, WINNIPEG REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

WHAT STEPS DOES YOUR FAMILY TAKE TO PREVENT COLDS AND INFLUENZA?

"The flu shot, frequent handwashing and plenty of sleep."

WHY IS HAND HYGIENE SO IMPORTANT?

"We touch so many things in a day. And kids more than any other age group share more bodily contact and are more susceptible to viruses. Not

everybody who is exposed is going to get sick, but they can still pass it on."

HOW OFTEN SHOULD WE WASH UP?

"You don't have to overdo it. What's important is to wash up before you eat or prepare food and after you use the washroom (or help a little one use the washroom) or arrive home from outside."

IF A FAMILY MEMBER GETS SICK, HOW DO YOU KEEP THE REST OF THE HOUSEHOLD FROM CATCHING A BUG?

"When a child is sick, you're not going to refuse to cuddle them. In our family, we wash our hands the old-fashioned way — with soap and water — whenever possible at home. Proper handwashing is important when you're sick and when you're well — even a well person can pass on germs they've come into contact with. In a busy household, you'd likely want to have hand sanitizer available in high-traffic areas or for when a sink isn't available."



Research shows that vitamin D may help the immune system. Supplements are a good bet during the winter. SHUTTERSTOCK

DR. KAREN WILSON, GENERAL PRACTITIONER, TORONTO

HOW DO YOU PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AGAINST FLU?

"We do handwashing and flu shots. I have two kids, aged 12 and 13. Like most people who get the flu, if they get sick they are only out for a couple of days, but for those with weaker immune systems, like the very young or older people, influenza can be damaging. If you have family members in those groups, you need to get a shot to protect them."

IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD GETS SICK, HOW DO YOU TREAT THEM?

"Rest. Even if you already have flu, vitamin D may help."

WHAT OTHER STEPS CAN ONE TAKE TO STAY HEALTHY?

"Research shows that vitamin D may help boost the immune system. In summer, many people get at least some of their daily requirement of vitamin D from the sun, but during the winter months, when there's not as much light, you may want to consider getting it from vitamin supplements."

DR. MICHAEL LIBMAN, DIRECTOR OF THE J.D. MACLEAN CENTRE FOR TROPICAL DISEASES AT MCGILL UNIVERSITY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE

HOW DOES YOUR FAMILY FIGHT OFF COLD AND FLU?

"We're the same as everybody. We get flu shots, practise frequent handwashing. I'd also advise trying not to touch your face. There's no need to get paranoid about your kids getting sick. Being exposed to cold and flu is not a bad thing. As long as young people are relatively healthy, evidence suggests that exposure to these viruses helps children develop some immunity to them."

IF A FAMILY MEMBER GETS SICK, HOW DO YOU KEEP THE REST OF THE HOUSEHOLD FROM CATCHING A BUG?

"I say watch your hygiene. Use disposable tissues to cough or sneeze. It's not just family that you want to protect — don't be brave and try to go into work. When you're sick, you are not particularly efficient. Often, when you're sick, you're not doing your colleagues any favours by making them sick."

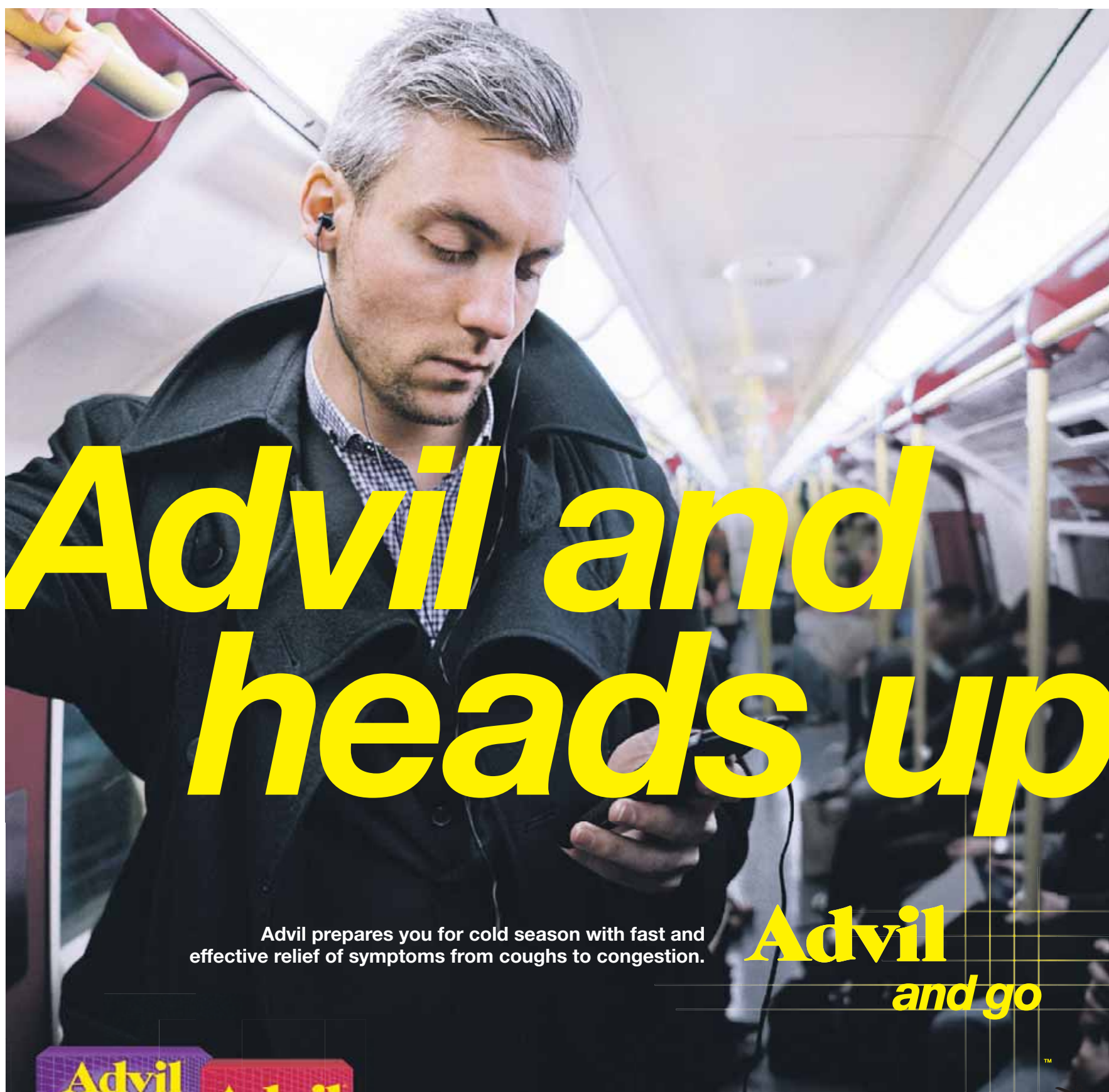
+ HANDY TIPS

- How long should you wash your hands? Dr. Pierre Plourde of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority recommends washing for at least 30 seconds, or the time it takes to sing Happy Birthday twice.
- Hand sanitizers are great, Plourde said. He recommends one with at least a 60 per cent alcohol concentration. For those with sensitivity to alcohol, he suggests a benzalkonium chloride gel.
- Cough or sneeze into a tissue, then wash your hands. If you don't have a tissue, use the crook of your elbow. It spreads fewer germs.

RHONDA RICHE/FOR METRO

ANY TIPS ON SPEEDING UP RECOVERY TIMES?

"Unfortunately, there's no magic bullet. All you can do is rest. Get as comfortable as possible and take something like a pain reliever or decongestant if it makes you feel better."



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SPORTS

Toronto clinched its fifth AL East title on Sept. 27, 1993

Thursday, October 1, 2015



The Blue Jays clinched the AL East — their first division title in 22 years — on Wednesday. PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

MLB

Party begins fashionably late in Baltimore

Buckets of champagne were ready, just sitting in the visiting clubhouse at Camden Yards. The Toronto Blue Jays celebrated clinching the American League East on the field but had to wait to complete a doubleheader before popping bottles.

The franchise waited 22 years for this. What were another few hours?

Two months of spectacular baseball culminated in a 15-2

route of the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday afternoon, ending decades of frustration for fans and rewarding the Blue Jays' organization for a remarkable turnaround.

"I wake up every day with a huge grin on my face. I wake up every day and it doesn't feel real," pitcher Marcus Stroman said. "Taking the field every day with Josh Donaldson, Troy Tulowitzki, David Price, Mark Buehrle, it's nuts to me."

The Blue Jays, who fell 8-1 in the second game of the doubleheader, were nuts to watch for much of the season but more specifically since July 29, when Tulowitzki joined the lineup amid a flurry of bountiful dead-

line trades. They've gone 42-15 since, surging past the New York Yankees before finally wrapping up the division in the first game against the Orioles on Wednesday.

The pennant is Toronto's first since 1993, when it won its second of back-to-back World Series titles. It assures the Blue Jays a spot in the five-game AL Division Series rather than the uncertainty of a one-game wild-card playoff, which they had already clinched last weekend.

"It's been a really long time since this city has been to the playoffs, so to do it for the city of Toronto and to do it with this group of guys, it's been a dream come true," Stroman said.

In late July, any kind of post-season appearance would have been welcomed, before general manager Alex Anthopoulos went all-in.

"We didn't even look that far. We just said, 'Look, we're a game or two out of a wild-card spot, we feel like we have a really good team that's underachieved to this point,'" Anthopoulos said. "We thought we had a shot, no

doubt about it."

Those moves worked like a charm, making the Blue Jays' 50-51 record in late July feel like a distant memory. Winning the division seemed inevitable in recent days as the Yankees struggled and the Blue Jays kept rolling.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

I think home field (advantage) for us with the environment that we have now at that stadium ... We'd love to get it.

General manager Alex Anthopoulos



+ TIMELINE

The Blue Jays' journey to winning the division title began a year ago. Here are some pivotal moments within that span:

Nov. 1, 2014 — The Jays trade longtime first baseman/designated hitter Adam Lind to the Milwaukee Brewers for right-handed pitcher Marco Estrada.

Nov. 18, 2014 — The Jays sign three-time all-star catcher Russell Martin, a native of Toronto.

Nov. 28, 2014 — The Jays trade Canadian third baseman Brett Lawrie and prospects to the Oakland Athletics for third baseman Josh Donaldson.

July 12, 2015 — Toronto goes into the all-star break 45-46.

July 28, 2015 — In a blockbuster deal with the Colorado Rockies, the Blue Jays get shortstop Troy Tulowitzki and reliever LaTroy Hawkins.

July 30, 2015 — The trade bonanza hits its apex as the Blue Jays acquire pending free-agent ace David Price from the Detroit Tigers.

Aug. 12, 2015 — The 10th victory of an 11-game winning streak, coupled with a Yankees loss, puts the Blue Jays in first place in the AL East by a half-game.

Aug. 23, 2015 — A rout of the Angels wraps up a three-game sweep in Anaheim as the Blue Jays get back into first place.

Sept. 30, 2015 — Jays beat Orioles 15-2 to clinch AL East title.



Michael Frolik, left, brings a Stanley Cup-winning pedigree to Calgary. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Frolik finding a fit with the Flames

When Calgary Flames general manager Brad Treliving signed forward Michael Frolik, the GM described him as a "Swiss Army knife."

The multi-purpose right-winger has spent training camp adapting to his new team and finding out where head coach Bob Hartley believes he'll be the most useful.

Frolik has seen a lot of 19-year-old rookie sensation Sam Bennett on either his opposite wing or at centre on Calgary's second line during the pre-season.

"Most of the games I've played

with Sammy," Frolik said Wednesday. "He's a young guy, but a really skilled and smart player. I like playing with skilled guys who can make plays and I think he's a guy who can do it."

"Every day I feel we build a little bit more chemistry and hopefully if we stay together, we keep building."

The Flames conclude the pre-season with games against the Winnipeg Jets on Thursday and Saturday before opening the regular season Oct. 7 at home against Vancouver.

After a pair of 42-point seasons

I think he's going to become a big, big part of this team.

Bob Hartley

with the Jets, the 27-year-old Czech signed a five-year contract with the Flames in July worth \$4.3 million US annually.

Frolik won a Stanley Cup with the Chicago Blackhawks in 2013 as a defensive forward on their checking line, although he as-

sisted on Dave Bolland's Cup-winning goal. Chicago subsequently dealt Frolik to Winnipeg in a salary dump.

Frolik ranked among the top three performers in fitness testing to open Calgary's main camp. He's also been a standout in the pre-season with a team-leading four points in three games.

"Obviously it's a little more fun where you can play more offence," Frolik said. "It's kind of why I signed here because I could see the opportunity here that I can have here."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RECIPE Mushroom Barley Soup



PHOTO: MAMA VINSNYI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

Whip up a pot of this simple, earthy soup and have leftovers for lunch the next day.

Ready in

Prep time: 25 minutes

Serves 6

Ingredients

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 or 3 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 medium carrots, peeled, diced
- 2 stalks of celery diced
- 1 lb of cremini mushrooms, brushed clean and sliced
- 2 Tbsp fresh thyme (less if using dried)

- 3/4 cup of pearl barley
- 5 cups of stock (vegetable, chicken or beef all work)
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions

1. In a large pot or Dutch oven warm up the olive oil over medium heat. Add your vegetables and thyme and allow to soften for about 3 to 5 minutes.
2. Add the barley and give it a good stir to coat it. Now pour the stock over and allow soup to simmer for about 20 minutes until the barley is tender but still chewy. Taste to check seasoning.

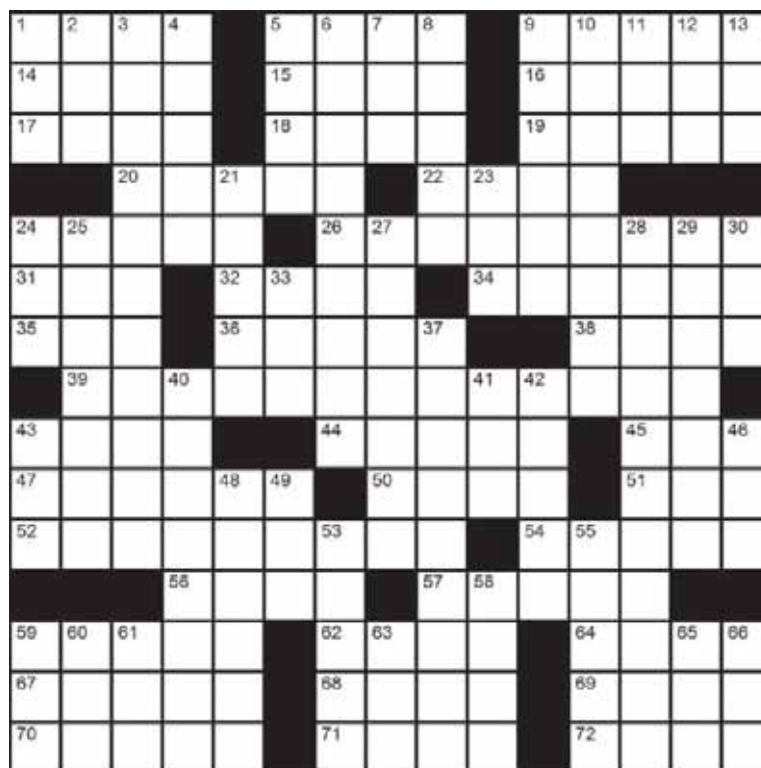
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BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

1. Icelandic myth story
5. Frolic
9. Sunday song
14. Momentarily
15. Iris spot in the eye
16. Western movie
17. Saloon slurp
18. Darned
19. Small song-birds
20. More kind
22. Art for #23-Down
24. Tim Hortons
26. Car trunk item: 2 wds.
31. So far
32. University for 2016 Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton
34. TV teasers
35. Spring month, briefly
36. Ironed pants line
38. Canadian composer Mr. MacDermot
39. Moose Jaw's nickname: 2 wds.
43. Nickname of Montreal's 1976 Summer Games stadium: wd. + letter
44. Kangaroo jacket feature
45. Passports, e.g.
47. Nose, slang-style
50. Expanse
51. Mesh
52. Launches an attack on the castle
54. Like linen-



56. Old currency
57. Harped on
59. Ancient language
62. Pad __ (Noodle dish)
64. Farm sound effect
67. Aristocracy

68. Dog playthings
69. Bygone time
70. Carries out the commands
71. Highlands tongue
72. Forensic IDs

DOWN

1. Twisty turn

2. __ Jones Industrial Average
3. "___": Hit by #9-Down that continues "...on the wrong side of town!"
4. Rolling Stones classic
5. Sly tactic
6. Don't respond to

- the alarm clock
7. Kitten cry
8. "Kung Fu __" (2008)
9. As per #3-Down... The __ Blues (Band from Vancouver)
10. __ Springs (New York state race-track locale)

11. Corroded
12. Mr. Kravitz, for short
13. Simon & Garfunkel's "___ Robinson"
21. Creepy chamber
23. Alsatian artist Jean
24. __ landslide
25. Painting like the real painting
27. Fall fashion classic: 2 wds.
28. Cloud of creativity
29. Contacts index on a classic office desk
30. "C__ la vie!"
33. "___ My Children"
37. Week parts each week
40. Relationship to the keynote in music
41. Frost
42. Fray
43. Graduate's degree, e.g.
46. Swine spot
48. Supposes
49. Switzerland's largest city [abbr.]
53. Frothy-topped hot beverage
55. Andrew Webber link
58. Smart
59. Horseshoe roarer
60. Vatican vestment
61. Affiliation
63. Vertical opp.
65. Firearms org. in The States
66. "Star Trek: Voyager" role

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Your imagination is so powerful there is a danger you could let your fears get out of hand. There are two ways to deal with your current dilemma: either do something about it or act as if it does not exist.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
Someone will go out of their way for you today, which makes you suspicious. What are they after? What's in it for them? The question you should be asking is: why can't I just accept that some people are nice by nature?

Gemini May 22 - June 21
What occurs today will help you see things in perspective. It will also remind you that life is too short to waste on things that don't matter.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
You may be under the impression that you can say anything to anyone and get away with it but don't be so sure. You seem to be under divine protection but it could rapidly be withdrawn.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
You ought to make it up to someone you've been neglecting. That's fine but don't be too generous — what others want most is your attention, they don't care about cash.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will be hugely responsive to other people's moods but you need to take care that their negative feelings don't start having a negative effect on you. Erect an emotional wall.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Some things are best left in the realms of fantasy. Having a dream is one thing but what if, when it comes true, you find it is really a nightmare? Stick to reality, it's safer.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You won't lack for compassion today but you may lack for common sense. Don't let others fool you into thinking that you are doing the right thing, when in fact the real right thing is to leave well alone.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Try to impress, especially people who can help with your ambitions, but don't go too far and claim you can deliver results that are really way beyond you. Even a Sag has limits.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Don't let rivals undermine your confidence today, especially on the work front where a setback has already put a dent in your morale. You will soon be moving up again.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Try not to let others know too much about what you are doing. Knowledge is power and the more knowledge you give away the less power you have for yourself.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
Relationships will generally go well today but be wary of anyone whose attitude towards you goes from one extreme to the other in a matter of minutes. It could be they are trying to confuse you for their own benefit.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



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